

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Willi (U.S Patent 2,258,834). Applicants canceled claims 2 and 5 in a prior reply to an office action. Currently pending are previously amended claim 1 and original claims 3, 4, and 6.

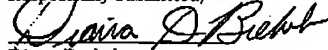
The Examiner states that claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 are anticipated by Willi. The Examiner states that: "Willi discloses a bearing shell for a crankshaft thrust bearing having....a groove running along an outside of a crankshaft bearing shell and a(n) orifice (S) passing through said shell connecting said oil passage to said groove so that oil may be provided to the flanges."

Applicant traverses the Examiner's allegations. Applicant's claim 1 states: "an axial groove running axially in the shell, said groove connecting said circumferential oil passage with at least one of the flanges." The Examiner states that "[a]lthough the groove of Willi runs circumferentially with the groove (R), is also has an axial dimension, and therefore runs axially, even if only for a short distance." However, groove (R) of Willi does not connect a circumferential oil passage with at least one of the flanges. Because Willi does not show Applicant's "connecting said circumferential oil passage with at least one of the flanges," Willi does not anticipate Applicant's claim 1 or claims 3, 4, and 6 which depend from claim 1. Allowance of these claims is earnestly sought.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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